

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 SS-15 NEA-10 /028 R

DRAFTED BY PA/PRESS:CSHAPIRO
APPROVED BY PA/PRESS:KBROWN
S/S-O:SVALERGA

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-----075095 181725Z /53

P 181700Z JUL 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 181089 TOSEC 080147

TO HODDING CARTER FROM PA/PRESS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, SOPN (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, MORNING JULY 18

NO. Y5

1-NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON POST -- OBERDORFER FROM LONDON

LEAD: "BEHIND THE HEAVILY GUARDED MOAT OF AN ANCIENT CASTLE, THE FONMINS OF THE US, EGYPT AND ISRAEL BEGAN PRELIMINARY TALKS LAST NIGHT FOR A NEW ROUND OF MEETINGS STARTING TODAY AIMED AT RENEWING DIPLOMATIC PROGRESS TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENT."

OTHER POINTS:

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-VANCE HOPED THE DISCUSSIONS HERE WOULD LEAD GIVE NEW MOMENTUM TO THE PEACE PROCESS; THE US IS WORRIED THAT THE SADAT INITIATIVE WILL DIE AND THE MIDDLE EAST WILL TAKE A NEW TURN TOWARD VIOLENCE.

-BOTH THE HOPES AND AIMS ARE MODEST. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DESCRIBED THESE MEETINGS AS AN INFORMAL DIALOGUE THAT COULD START THE STALLED PEACE DRIVE ON A MORE PRODUCTIVE PATH.

-US HOPES THAT THE TWO NATIONS WILL AGREE TO ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.

- US OFFICIALS GAVE MURKY ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SADAT-WEIZMAN MEETINGS. VANCE DOWNGRADED THAT MEETING BY SAYING THAT ONLY THE BEGIN PROPOSAL AND THE EGYPTIAN COUNTER-PROPOSAL WERE ON THE TABLE.
- THE US HAS ARRANGED AN INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE FOR THE TALKS IN ORDER TO GENERATE AS MUCH INFORMAL CONTACT AS POSSIBLE.
- VANCE HAS SAID THAT HE WILL BE HAPPY TO WITHDRAW IF THE TWO FONMINS CAN DO WITHOUT HIM.

NYT -- GWERTZMAN FROM LONDON

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE AND THE FONMINS OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL ARRIVED TONIGHT AT A HEAVILY GUARDED MEDIEVAL CASTLE OUTSIDE LONDON FOR A TWO-DAY MEETING AIMED AT SEEKING AN END TO THE IMPASSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

OTHER POINTS:

- AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID THE TALKS WERE "EXPLORATORY." THERE WAS AN EFFORT BY THE AMERICAN SIDE TO PERSUADE REPORTERS NOT TO EXPECT MAJOR RESULTS FROM THE MEETING.
- HOWEVER, THE MOOD SEEMED CAUTIOUSLY HOPEFUL. THE EGYPTIANS AND THE ISRAELIS SEEMED TO COMPETE IN

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THEIR ARRIVAL STATEMENTS TO ASSERT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO REACH AN EVENTUAL AGREEMENT.

- ON ARRIVAL, VANCE SAID HE HOPED FOR NEW MOMENTUM IN ORDER TO SET THE STAGE FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.
- THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT THE TWO FONMINS MAY MEET IN THE SINAI OR IN ISRAEL IN A WEEK OR TWO.
- GWERTZMAN MENTIONS THE INFORMALITY OF THE MEETINGS AND GOES INTO THE BACKGROUND OF THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI PROPOSALS.

ATLANTA CONSTITUTION -- GLASS FROM LONDON

LEAD: "THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN FONMINS PREPARED TO CONFER TUESDAY IN A MOATED CASTLE, RESUMING THE DIRECT PEACE TALKS WHICH HAD BROKEN DOWN IN JANUARY."

OTHER POINTS:

- CITES VANCE'S HOPE FOR NEW MOMENTUM. THE AMERICANS WILL PROPOSE MORE EXTENDED TALKS NEXT MONTH IN THE SINAI IF THINGS GO WELL.
- VANCE HOPES TO FIND THE COMMON GROUND IN THE PLANS. THE AIM IS STILL A BROADLY WORDED DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.
- NEITHER SIDE WANTS THE US TO SPONSOR ITS OWN PLAN NOR TO SEE MOSCOW BROUGHT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.
- SOME US SOURCES THINK SADAT WANTS TO SETTLE WITH

THE ISRAELIS IN ORDER TO GIVE HIM A FREER HAND TO
DEAL WITH LIBYA.

NY DAILY NEWS -- ANTEVIL FROM LONDON

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE AND THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI
FONMINS ARRIVED HERE LAST NIGHT AMID TIGHT SECURITY
PRECAUTIONS FOR WHAT US OFFICIALS REGARDED AS A
CRUCIAL NEW EFFORT TO REVIVE THE SEARCH FOR MIDDLE
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EAST PEACE."

OTHER POINTS:

-A HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIAL STRESSED THE EXPLORATORY
NATURE OF THE TALKS AND SAID THAT THEY WERE NOT AIMED
AT NEGOTIATING ANY NEW AGREEMENT OR DOCUMENT.
THE OFFICIAL ALSO MENTIONED THE INFORMAL SETTING FOR
THE TALKS. HE HOPED THAT THIS MEETING WOULD LEAD TO
A NEW ROUND OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS TO BE HELD
WITHIN A MONTH. BUT THE DATE AND LOCATION FOR THIS
MEETING WOULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE FONMINS
RETURN HOME TO CONSULT WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS.
-THE AMERICANS HOPE FOR AN ACCELERATED SERIES OF
FOLLOW-UP TALKS WITH OR WITHOUT US OFFICIALS.
-AN ISRAELI OFFICIAL SAID THAT SOME OF THE PARTIES HAD
BEEN "A BIT TOO IMPATIENT" AND CAUTIONED THAT THE
MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS ARE "GOING TO BE A LENGTHY
PROCESS."

CSM -- NO SOUTHERLAND

BOSTON GLOBE -- BEECHER FROM LONDON

LEAD: "PRESIDENT SADAT TOLD ISRAELI FONMIN WEIZMAN LAST
WEEK THAT IF EGYPT AND ISRAEL COULD WORK OUT A SETTLE-
MENT FOR THE WEST BANK AND JORDAN STILL REFUSED TO
BECOME INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, EGYPT
WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROCEED ALONE."

OTHER POINTS:

-DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AID THAT SADAT'S ASSURANCES BUOYED
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ISRAELI HOPES AND GAVE NEW LIFE TO THE PEACE PROCESS.
ISRAELI HOPES AND GAVE NEW LIFE TO THE PEACE PROCESS.
-THE US IS PRESSING FOR RESUMPTION OF FORMAL NEGOTIA-
TIONS. THIS IS ALSO THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THIS

CONFERENCE.

-IF ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR NEW TALKS, THEN
ATHERTON WILL SHUTTLE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. HE WILL
ALSO GO TO JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA TO EXPLAIN WHAT
IS GOING ON AND TO SEEK SUPPORT.

-IF THE NUMBER OF DIFFERENCES CAN BE NARROWED, THEN
VANCE MAY GO TO THE MIDDLE EAST TO OFFER SOME
SUGGESTIONS TO BRIDGE THE REMAINING ISSUES.

-BEECHER EXPLAINS THE BACKGROUND OF THE EGYPTIAN
AND ISRAELI PROPOSALS, AND HE DESCRIBES THE SECURITY
PRECAUTIONS AT LEEDS CASTLE.

WASHINGTON STAR -- HAS GUIDRY PIECE ON PRESIDENT IN BONN;
NOTING ON VANCE FROM GUIDRY.

2. WIRES

UPI -- JOSEPH W. GRIGG FROM LEEDS CASTLE

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE AND THE FONMINS OF EGYPT AND
ISRAEL RESUMED THE SEARCH FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE TODAY
IN A 1100-YEAR-OLD ENGLISH CASTLE AND BOTH SIDES
ADMITTED THEY WERE STILL FAR APART."

OTHER POINTS:

-THE US SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED THE SESSION AS "SERIOUS
AND THOROUGH."
-THE PARTIES AGREED THAT THERE ARE WIDE DIFFERENCES,
BUT THAT THERE WAS HOPE OF NARROWING THEM.
-THE EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS DISAGREED ON WHETHER
DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS HAD ACTUALLY BEGUN.

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AP -- NO BYLINE FROM LEEDS CASTLE, ENGLAND

LEAD: "EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FONMINS OPENED A TWO-DAY
MEETING IN THIS CASTLE SOUTHWEST OF LONDON TODAY, BUT
AFTER 3 1/2 HOURS OF NEGOTIATIONS THE ONLY APPARENT
AGREEMENT WAS THAT THE GAP BETWEEN THEIR POSITIONS
WAS .VERY WIDE.."

OTHER POINTS:

-BOTH SPOKESMEN WERE NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC. H. CARTER
SPEAKING FOR VANCE SAID THAT THE AIM OF THE TALKS IS
"TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND THEN MOVE INTO
OTHER AREAS."
-RELIABLE SOURCES SAID ATHERTON WOULD RESUME SHUTTLE, BUT
CARTER REFUSED TO CONFIRM.
CARTER REFUSED TO CONFIRM.
-HE SIDES EVEN DISAGREED ON IF THEY WERE NEGOTIATING
DIRECTLY.

REUTERS -- NO GUTMAN IN MORNING TAKE

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3. NETWORKS

ABC - DUNSMORE FROM LEEDS CASTLE

-BECAUSE OF LEGITIMATE FEARS OF A TERRORIST STRIKE, SECURITY PRECAUTIONS FOR THIS MEETING ARE SAID TO BE THE GREATEST EVER UNDERTAKEN IN BRITAIN DURING PEACETIME. IN THE 1000-YEAR-OLD LEEDS CASTLE THE CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE IN A MEDIEVAL SETTING, BUT THE JOUSTING MATCHES TO SETTLE THE ISSUES OF THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BE OF COURSE VERBAL. CYRUS VANCE, MOSHE DAYAN AND MOHAMMED KAMEL BEGAN THEIR FIRST ROUND OF TALKS THIS MORNING, AND THE MOOD SEEMS GOOD, AL-

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THOUGH DAYAN WAS CRITICAL OF THE INTENSE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

-THE DISCUSSIONS WILL FOCUS ON THE PLANS EACH SIDE HAS PROPOSED FOR RESOLVING THE ISSUES OF THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP. WHILE THIS IN ITSELF MAY APPEAR TO BE A FUTILE EXERCISE BECAUSE BOTH SIDES HAVE ALREADY REJECTED EACH OTHER'S PROPOSALS, THE US VIEW IS THAT THE PLANS CONTAIN SOME COMMON GROUND WHICH CAN BE EXPLORED.

CBS - KALB FROM KENT

-THE TERRORIST THREAT THAT FORCED THIS MEETING TO MOVE FROM A DOWNTOWN LONDON HOTEL TO LEEDS CASTLE HERE IN KENT ABOUT 45 MILES TO THE SOUTHEAST APPEARS TO BE AN ACTIVE AND CONTINUING ONE. ADDITIONAL SECURITY HAS ARRIVED FROM WASHINGTON, AND BRITISH POLICE, WHO MAKE IT A POINT OF PRIDE NEVER TO BE ARMED, WERE HEAVILY ARMED THIS MORNING. THEY REMOVED THEIR FLAK JACKETS BEFORE THE CAMERAMEN ARRIVED TO CONVEY A SLIGHTLY MORE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. THIS EFFORT WAS ONLY A MODEST SUCCESS.

-THEN, UNDER TENSE SUPERVISION, A SMALL GROUP OF NEWSMEN AND CAMERAMEN WAS ALLOWED ON TO THE CASTLE GROUNDS TO TAKE PICTURES OF THREE FOREIGN MINISTERS STANDING TOGETHER IN THIS TRADITIONAL PORTRAIT OF DIPLOMATIC AWKWARDNESS. LAST NIGHT, AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL HERE, VANCE MET SEPARATELY, FIRST WITH ISRAEL'S DAYAN, THEN WITH EGYPT'S KAMEL, TO WORK OUT PROCEDURES FOR TODAY'S OPENING ROUND OF TALKS. WHAT PROCEDURES, HOW THESE TALKS ARE GOING - NONE OF THIS IS KNOWN AS YET. THE ORIGINAL EXPECTATION IS THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL WOULD BE ABLE TO AGREE TO CARRY ON DIRECT TALKS PERHAPS WITHIN A WEEK OR TWO PROBABLY AT EL ARISH IN THE SINAI, THE TALKS HERE DESIGNED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR ACCOMMODATION AND COMPROMISE. ACCORDING TO ONE AMERICAN OFFICIAL HERE, EVEN THIS LIMITED GOAL WILL NOT COME EASY.

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NBC - JAMEISON FROM LEEDS CASTLE

-THE TALKS FORMALLY BEGAN THIS MORNING INSIDE THE TIGHTLY GUARDED 100-YEAR-OLD LEEDS CASTLE 45 MILES FROM LONDON.

ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN AND EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL AND THEIR AIDES HAD SPENT THE NIGHT AT THE CASTLE WITH SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE. THEY POSED FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS THIS MORNING BEFORE THE OPENING ROUND OF TALKS.

-WITHIN THE TALKS VANCE IS SEEKING AREAS OF AGREEMENT IN THE ISRAELI PEACE PROPOSAL PRESENTED IN JANUARY AND THE EGYPTIAN PLAN OFFERED BY PRESIDENT SADAT EARLIER THIS MONTH. VANCE HAS DENIED THAT EGYPT HAS COME TO THIS CONFERENCE PREPARED TO MAKE NEW CONCESSIONS ON THE WEST BANK AND THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS WHO LIVE THERE, AND IT IS PRECISELY THOSE ISSUES WHICH WILL REMAIN THE STICKING POINT DURING THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

-BUT AMERICAN OFFICIALS DO NOT EXPECT A BREAKTHROUGH IN THIS MEETING. THEIR HOPE IS THAT THESE TALKS WILL BE A FIRST POSITIVE STEP TOWARD BREAKING THE STALEMATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT HAS EXISTED FOR MONTHS. VANCE AND OTHERS EXPECT THAT THIS TWO-DAY CONFERENCE WILL LEAD TO A FORMAL RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, AND THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO RESUME THE SHUTTLE MISSION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE AHERN TO EASE THE WAY FOR THOSE NEGOTIATIONS. YY CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE181089
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PA/PRESS:CSHAPIRO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780294-1036
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197807106/baaaезgv.tel
Line Count: 304
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eb70566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1857391
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, MORNING JULY 18
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb70566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014